
11TH MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC)

Manta, Ecuador, 25, 26, 27, & 30 January 2024

FAC 11 – Doc 06.3 Developing States Fund (DS) Fund Secretariat

1. Background

Annex 1 of the SPRFMO Financial Regulations provides the purpose of the DS Fund: *“The purpose of the DS Fund is to facilitate the effective participation of developing State Contracting Parties of the region, in particular the least developed among them, and small island developing States, and as appropriate, territories and possessions in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies”, and “Appropriate records and accounts shall be maintained for the Fund, and the Executive Secretary shall report the status of the Fund, the amount used to provide assistance for the development of technical capacity and details of such assistance, together with the level of available funds, during the annual session of the Commission.”*

Pursuant to the Financial Regulations, the Secretariat established a separate account in 2017 for the Developing States Fund. This Fund contained the accumulated unspent appropriations from previous financial years (beginning from financial year 2015-16), and unused Members’ voluntary contributions for the above stated purpose.

At the FAC9 meeting in January 2022, the Secretariat made a proposal to remove the cap on unspent appropriations as set by Financial Regulations, transfer the balance of the Special Requirements Fund¹ to the Developing States Fund and discontinue the Special Requirements Fund. FAC reviewed the Fund and agreed with this proposal. Revised Financial Regulations (2022) containing this change were adopted by the Commission to support the new operation of the Developing States Fund. This change shall still be subject to the same level of FAC oversight as previously.

After the Annual Meeting of 2022, this change has been reflected in the financial reporting for Developing States Fund (refer to page 8 of [FAC11-Doc6](#)).

This paper is prepared in accordance with the 2022 Financial Regulations.

FAC11 considerations:

Bearing in mind the discussions held during FAC9, the SPRFMO Secretariat has proposed that the allocation for the DS Fund remain at **NZ\$35,000** for Financial Year 2024-25.

The FAC11 is invited to:

- **Recommend** that the Commission approve the proposed budget amount of NZ\$35,000 for Budget Category 10 – Developing States for the Financial Year 2024-25 (as per FAC11-Doc07).
- **Note** the information contained in this paper.

¹ Balance of NZ\$80,831 included China’s voluntary contributions of NZ\$78,948 from 2014 to 2017, and Chile’s voluntary contributions of NZ\$1,883 in 2013 ([FAC9-Doc04-rev1](#)).



2. Status of Developing States Fund

Since 2015, the Developing States Fund has been used to support developing State Members to participate in the Commission's annual meetings and Scientific Committee's workshops/meetings. Due to the global pandemic, budget items requiring in-person meetings were replaced by virtual meetings during the Financial Year 2019-20 and 2020-21. Since 2022, international travel has resumed.

Table 1 below shows the year-to-date status, as well as the estimated status up to 30 June 2024.

Table 1: Status of the Developing States Fund

Financial Year	Budget NZ\$	Meeting/Workshop	Member Supported	NZ\$	Remaining NZ\$
2015-16	18 000	The 4 th Commission Meeting	Cook Islands	6 130	
			Cuba	2 173	
		Subtotal expense for FY 2015-16			
2016-17	20 000	The 5 th Commission Meeting	Cuba	1 555	
			Peru	6 000	
			Vanuatu	3 722	
Subtotal expense for FY 2016-17			11 277	18 420	
2017-18	15 000	The 6 th Commission Meeting	Cuba	1 430	
			Vanuatu	10 458	
		The 6 th SC Workshop	Ecuador	3 117	
Subtotal expense for FY 2017-18			15 005	18 415	
2018-19	20 000	The 6 th SC Meeting	Cook Islands	7 040	
			Ecuador	3 540	
			Peru	7 510	
		The 7 th Commission Meeting	Cook Islands	5 196	
			Cuba	4 730	
			Ecuador	4 957	
			Peru	5 330	
Subtotal expense for FY 2018-19			38 303	112	
2019-20	30 000	The 7 th SC Meeting	Cook Islands	7 925	
			Ecuador	2 435	
		The 8 th Commission Meeting	Cuba	5 050	
			Peru	4 035	
Subtotal expense for FY 2019-20			19 445	10 667	
2020-21	55 965 ²	<i>International travel prevented due to COVID19</i>		0	
Subtotal expense for FY 2020-21			0	66 632³	
2021-22	35 000	The SC Jack Mackerel Stock Assessment Benchmark Workshop	Ecuador	9 850	
	80 831 ⁴				
Subtotal expense for FY 2021-22			9 850	172 847	

² USA Voluntary contribution as per Adopted Budget for Financial Year 2020-21 (COMM8-Report Annex 6d)

³ As per FR (2019) 2.4 (which capped the Developing States Fund at NZ\$ 30k), and the FAC8 Recommended to exceptionally carry forward NZ\$36,632 for the Developing States Fund into the Financial Year 2021-22.

⁴ Transfer from Special Requirement Fund as per the COMM10 Decision.



Financial Year	Budget NZ\$	Meeting/Workshop	Member Supported	NZ\$	Remaining NZ\$
2022-23	35 000	The SC Jack Mackerel Stock Assessment Benchmark Workshop	Ecuador (Final payment considered 2021-22 appropriation)	2 421	
			The 10 th SC Meeting	Ecuador	
		Peru		14 005	
		The 11 th Commission Meeting	Cook Islands	7 854	
			Panama	6 119	
			Peru	3 072	
		Subtotal expense for FY2022-23			
Plus, interest income				2 583	
Balance as of 30th June 2023					170 894
2023-24	35 000	The 11 th SC Meeting	Ecuador	5 002	
			Peru	5 012	
			Belize	3 579	
		The 12 th Commission Meeting (Committed)	Cook Islands	12 700	
			Panama	4 246	
			Peru	3 673	
		Subtotal expense for FY2023-24			
Plus, interest income year-to-date (up to 30th Nov 2023)				1 906	
Estimated Balance as of 30th June 2024					173 588

3. 2023-24 Applications to use the Developing States Fund

Financial Regulations Annex 1 paragraph 5 provides that “Maximum 60% of the annual budget amount of the DS Fund shall be allocated for participation in the Annual Meeting of the Commission and maximum 40% shall be allocated for participation in the meeting or workshops of the Scientific Committee.”

For SPRFMO Financial Year 2023-24, the Commission allocated NZ\$35,000 for Budget Item 9 Developing States ([COMM11 – Report ANNEX 5a](#)), therefore, the allocations for the SPRFMO’s two main Meetings are:

- For the 11th SC Meeting, it is NZ\$14,000.
- For the 12th SPRFMO Commission Meeting, it is NZ\$21,000.

As per the guidelines provided by the Financial Regulations, the Secretariat, on behalf of the Organisation, implemented the operation and disbursement of the DS Funds are outlined in the Table 1.